

Agency 351

State School For The Blind**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	82.2	9,377	1,335	10,712
Total Maintenance Level	82.0	9,930	1,336	11,266
Difference	(.2)	553	1	554
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(0.2)%	5.9%	0.1%	5.2%
Performance Changes				
Middle Management Reduction	(.6)	(55)		(55)
General Inflation		(34)	(1)	(35)
Distance Learning	1.0	210		210
Subtotal	0.5	121	(1)	120
Total Proposed Budget	82.5	10,051	1,335	11,386
Difference	.3	674		674
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.4%	7.2%	0.0%	6.3%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Administration	12.6	1,775		1,775
Braille Production and Distribution	3.7	41		41
Intensive Training Opportunities	22.8	2,509		2,509
Off-Campus Services to Students/Districts	.5	457		457
On-Campus 24-Hour Educational Program	43.4	4,732	1,335	6,067
Student Transportation		592		592
Middle Management Reduction	(.6)	(55)		(55)
Total Proposed Budget	82.5	10,051	1,335	11,386

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**Middle Management Reduction**

The Governor has directed that middle management be reduced by 1,000 positions by the end of the biennium. This item is this agency's share of the statewide amount.

Distance Learning

Accessibility to specialized classes and training can be very difficult for individuals with visual disabilities. Funding digital classrooms expands access to specialized training throughout Washington through the use of current and future technology. Funding this item also will help create additional partnerships on a national level, which could result in federal and private funding to further expand educational and training opportunities for the blind.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Administration**

The administration activity provides leadership in the development and implementation of effective and efficient programs at the Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB).

Braille Production and Distribution

This division assists school districts in meeting the needs of blind and visually impaired children. Services include the production of Braille material for children (and adults); acquisition and distribution of materials and equipment; coordination of purchases for better pricing; and direct and on-line support, including training on new assistive technology. It also trains inmates to produce Braille. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

Intensive Training Opportunities

The school provides an extended core curriculum for blind and visually impaired children that focuses on skills relating to orientation and mobility, daily living, and recreation and leisure. Between 48 and 52 students reside in cottages on the campus.

Off-Campus Services to Students/Districts

Approximately one-sixth of school districts in Washington contract with Outreach Services to obtain itinerant services (direct and consultative) by trained teachers of the blind. This enables districts to provide visually-impaired students with high-quality services in a cost-effective and efficient manner. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

On-Campus 24-Hour Educational Program

As required by both state and federal law, the on-campus educational program in Vancouver offers short-term, 24-hour educational services to blind children, ages kindergarten to 21 years. In addition to academic instruction, students are taught necessary skills to achieve independence and successful transition into the community. The school has a two-year waiting list for admission. It also serves as an evaluation center for blind children throughout Washington. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

Student Transportation

This activity provides for the transportation of students living at home in the Vancouver area and throughout the state. Students in the Vancouver area are transported by Educational Service District #112 (contracted service).

Middle Management Reduction

The Governor has directed that middle management be reduced by 1,000 positions by the end of the biennium. This item is this agency's share of the statewide amount. These savings will be assigned to the appropriate activities after the budget is enacted.